

aside, for a moment, our party affiliations, political interests, and personal ambitions in the service of a larger cause, because that is what he did. For all his cynicism, he still believed the Senate could reach that higher calling.

Deep in the middle of his final speech on the Senate floor were these words: "I hope we can again rely on humility, on our need to cooperate, on our dependence on each other, learn how to trust each other again, and by doing so, better serve the people who elected us."

If we are to truly honor the life and the service of JOHN MCCAIN, let us do that. Let us do that.

JOHN MCCAIN put out a few final words. Today I think some of his staffers put them out. I would like to read just two paragraphs of that and then ask unanimous consent that they be put in the RECORD:

I have often observed that I am the luckiest person on earth. I feel that way even now as I prepare for the end of my life. I have loved my life, all of it. I have had experiences, adventures and friendships enough for ten satisfying lives, and I am so thankful. Like most people, I have regrets. But I would not trade a day of my life, in good times or bad times, for the best of anyone else's.

Finally, he concluded with this:

Do not despair of our present difficulties but believe always in the promise and greatness of America, because nothing is inevitable here. Americans never quit. We never surrender. We never hide from history. We make history.

Farewell, fellow Americans. God bless you, and God bless America.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

My fellow Americans, whom I have gratefully served for sixty years, and especially my fellow Arizonans,

Thank you for the privilege of serving you and for the rewarding life that service in uniform and in public office has allowed me to lead. I have tried to serve our country honorably. I have made mistakes, but I hope my love for America will be weighed favorably against them.

I have often observed that I am the luckiest person on earth. I feel that way even now as I prepare for the end of my life. I have loved my life, all of it. I have had experiences, adventures and friendships enough for ten satisfying lives, and I am so thankful. Like most people, I have regrets. But I would not trade a day of my life, in good or bad times, for the best day of anyone else's.

I owe that satisfaction to the love of my family. No man ever had a more loving wife or children he was prouder of than I am of mine. And I owe it to America.

To be connected to America's causes—liberty, equal justice, respect for the dignity of all people—brings happiness more sublime than life's fleeting pleasures. Our identities and sense of worth are not circumscribed but enlarged by serving good causes bigger than ourselves.

'Fellow Americans'—that association has meant more to me than any other. I lived and died a proud American. We are citizens of the world's greatest republic, a nation of ideals, not blood and soil. We are blessed and are a blessing to humanity when we uphold and advance those ideals at home and in the world. We have helped liberate more people from tyranny and poverty than ever before

in history. We have acquired great wealth and power in the process.

We weaken our greatness when we confuse our patriotism with tribal rivalries that have sown resentment and hatred and violence in all the corners of the globe. We weaken it when we hide behind walls, rather than tear them down, when we doubt the power of our ideals, rather than trust them to be the great force for change they have always been.

We are three-hundred-and-twenty-five million opinionated, vociferous individuals. We argue and compete and sometimes even vilify each other in our raucous public debates. But we have always had so much more in common with each other than in disagreement. If only we remember that and give each other the benefit of the presumption that we all love our country we will get through these challenging times. We will come through them stronger than before. We always do.

Ten years ago, I had the privilege to concede defeat in the election for president. I want to end my farewell to you with the heartfelt faith in Americans that I felt so powerfully that evening.

I feel it powerfully still.

Do not despair of our present difficulties but believe always in the promise and greatness of America, because nothing is inevitable here. Americans never quit. We never surrender. We never hide from history. We make history.

Farewell, fellow Americans. God bless you, and God bless America.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.

Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lynn A. Johnson, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JOHN MCCAIN

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, the U.S. Senate, indeed, our entire Nation, is mourning the loss of a great leader, an American patriot, our colleague and friend, Senator JOHN MCCAIN.

I first met JOHN MCCAIN when I was a young staffer in Senator Bill Cohen's office and JOHN was serving as the Navy's liaison officer. As a fellow Senator for the past 21 years, I knew him as a trusted colleague, a courageous legislator, and a close friend.

JOHN was a true American hero who devoted his life to serving his country. Courage and character were the hallmarks of his military service as well as his work in Congress. In the Senate, he was a consequential leader on the most critical issues facing our country. JOHN MCCAIN was one of our Congress's most respected voices for a strong national defense and for good government. His word was as much his bond in Washington as it was to his brothers in arms in Vietnam.

I would like to share with my colleagues a story, I believe, that demonstrates the essential character of JOHN MCCAIN.

In November of 2010, JOHN was part of a congressional delegation on its way to a security conference in Nova Scotia. Bad weather caused their flight to be diverted to Bangor, ME, where I live. I shortly received a phone call to come to the airport, and I went and welcomed JOHN and my colleagues on their unplanned visit.

As it happened, the Troop Greeters of Maine were at the airport at the same time. This legendary group of citizens has greeted more than 1.5 million servicemembers either leaving to go overseas or returning home since 2003; never missing a single flight, even in bad weather or the middle of the night. The Presiding Officer, I believe—who also has served her country so well, Senator ERNST—was one of those who was greeted by the Troop Greeters in Bangor, ME.

Rather than fly out when the weather cleared, JOHN and the others in the delegation agreed to stay and join me with the long line of these patriotic Troop Greeters to await the arrival of the airplanes.

I remember when I told JOHN that there was a plane that would be arriving shortly and then there was another one in a couple of hours, he said: Of course, we will stay.

Well, you can imagine, having gone through the gauntlet of Mainers greeting and welcoming the troops back home, hugging them, cheering them, giving them cell phones, thanking them for their service, that all of a sudden the troops realized they had just shaken hands with JOHN MCCAIN; the legendary JOHN MCCAIN, who was so popular with servicemembers. I saw them literally do a double take when the first group went by, shook his hand, and then turned around and said to each other: Wasn't that JOHN MCCAIN who just shook our hands?

They then came back and of course posed for pictures and chatted with him and held up the rest of the line, who were very eager to see JOHN.

I will never forget how thrilled these troops were to be greeted, when they